(b) what are the specific fields in which the Government of Laos has desired Indian assistance and when they first approached us ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) An amount of approximately Rs 58 lakhs has been committed/spent by Government of India on assistance to Laos during the last three financial years. In addition forty-five scholarships were utilised for training Lao personnel in India during the same period.

(b) The Government of Laos first approached us in 1977 for economic and technical assistance. Our cooperation has been requested in various fields Viz. agriculture, industry and transport. A list of these areas is placed on the Table of the house.

Legislation for banning use of religious places for Political ends

283. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what were the decisions received newly revived meeting of the National Integration Council held in New Delhi on the 7 th April, 1986; and

(b) whether Government are contemplating to bring in a legislation banning use of religious places or places of worship for political ends and not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) The National integration Council Meeting held on 9-4-1986 deliberated on "National Integration and Communal Harmony in he context of the situation in Punjab." The NIC adopted a Resolution and set up a 21 members Standing Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Jagjivan Ram to function on continuing basis. The task of the Standing Committee will he formulate short-term and long-term measures for preserving national integration in its various aspects all over the country.

(b) No, Sir. In view of the sensitivity of the matter it was felt that the main initiative for such regulations should come from the enlightened public opinion.

Demand for withdrawal of the Kudal Commission

284. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of people recently staged a rally in Delhi and submitted a memorandum demanding withdrawal of the Kudal Commission; and

(b) whether the C.B.I. has submitted its report in seven cases in which they were asked to investigate on the findings of the first interim report of the Kudal Commission and if not, by when the C.B.I. is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of the Seven Cases initially referred to C.B.I., one case was dropped. The other six cases are under investigation.

Supply of Sophisticated Arms to Pakistan by U.K.

285. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news items

which appeared in the 'Indian Express' of 10th March, 1986 to the effect that U.K. sophisticated arms worth £175 million are being supplied to Pakistan;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof: and

(c) what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Similar reports in the British press indicate that the deal is for supply of Tank Turrets and armaments to Pakistan.

(c) Government continues to maintain a constant vigil over all developments having a bearing on the country's security.

Indians in Pakistani Jails

286. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Blitz of 8th March, 1986 to the effect that there are a number of Indians who have been in Pakistani jails for thirteen to thirty years and have not been handed over so far to the government of India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a number of Indian prisoners of War got insane in Pak torture cells; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to secure their release?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are no confirmed reports on any pecific cases; and

(c) Continuous efforts are being made by Government to secure the early release of Indian prisoners from Pakistan Jails.

Gambling Dens in Maurya Shereton Hotel

287. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minsiter of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some gambling dens have recently been detected in Maurya Shereton Hotel in New Delhi and some persons were also arrested;

(b) if so, the number of raids conducted on the Hotel during the last six months and the names of persons arrested and cash seized;

(c) whether Government arrested the Director of the Hotel for managing the gambling den and for supplying of girls for immoral traffic and heroin have also been seized; and

(d) what action has been taken against the guilty persons in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, during a raid on 7th January, 1986, 13 persons were arrested.

(b) No other raid has been conducted during the last six months on this Hotel.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) A case U/s 4/9/55 of the Gambling Act and another case U/s 21/61/85 of Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 has been registered. Challan has since been filed in one case which is pending trial in Court.